

# **Canterbury Workers Educational Association.**

## **Newsletter Term 3 2017**

### **Tēnā Koutou Katoa.**

As I write this it is Maori Language week, Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.

This morning there was a discussion on RadioNZ about how to incorporate the learning of Te Reo into your life. The couple speaking talked about committing 30 minutes per day but making it easy by adding the words which are already part of your life. They used an example of taking young children to the playground and using the Reo to describe the different playground equipment. They emphasised the importance of not being scared of making mistakes as you try to use the words. Much better to try and to make an error but to learn from it than to never try. I was enthused and encouraged. If there are errors in things, work out ways to be better next time. Learning is good for all of us.

Isn't that what the CWEA is all about? Learning, being fair and respectful to others, acknowledging differences, learning about the differences and working out ways to make things better.

We have had a range of courses in the last term which reflected this thinking. These included our regular programme ones but included some special ones in the Popup series. These included Eugenie Sage and Bryan Bruce which were evening courses and we were very happy with the number so people who came out for them. The daytime ones with Raf Manji and Kate Pedley also involved good numbers and stimulating discussion. That's what good learning is all about. The popup series was not advertised in the hard copy programme but was available on the website. We will be continuing this form of programming over next term and into 2018 as it allows more flexibility of programme planning and means we can react to current topics more easily. If you have ideas for programmes we are always keen to hear them.

I would encourage you all to look at the website as we do try to change it and add to what is on there. Explore the TedTalks for Lifelong Learning. We also have a Facebook page which I know some of you look at it but please know you do not have to be Facebook member to explore what it contains. It is where we put material and information which is topical, challenging and connected to the wider community and issues of social justice more broadly.

By the time you read this the election will be over and we will be discussing possible impacts of those results. It is an exciting time and I have been encouraged by the increasing number of young people who have been to some of our popups and who are feeling responsible for the direction our country takes.

I wish to thank Shannon for her energy and enthusiasm as Programme Coordinator. She worked hard and thoughtfully to bring new ideas and direction to the programming and we are sorry to lose her. We know she will be an asset to wherever she goes and whatever she does next.

Wendy Butcher

Interim Coordinator.

September 2017.